

TPA Agencies Propose Removal Actions for Hanford Site Contaminated Railcars

U.S. Department of Energy • Washington State Department of Ecology • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*The U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology – the Hanford Site Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – propose to remove, treat, and dispose of 16 contaminated railcars staged in Hanford's 200 North Area. The agencies are issuing for public review an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) that evaluates removal action alternatives to address the contaminated railcars. The 30-day public comment period runs from **July 14 through August 13, 2010**. The agencies want your input!*

Background

The railcars were used to transport irradiated nuclear fuel and are contaminated with radionuclides, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), and lead. This Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) is an addendum to the 212-N, -P, and -R Facilities EE/CA issued in 2008. That EE/CA evaluated removal action alternatives for the former 212-N, -P, and -R facilities that provided interim storage for irradiated fuel rods and the railcars. This removal action specifically addresses the disposition of the railcars.

What is being proposed?

This EE/CA examines the following removal action alternatives for the railcars:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Cost: This alternative was not costed, because it provides no protectiveness.

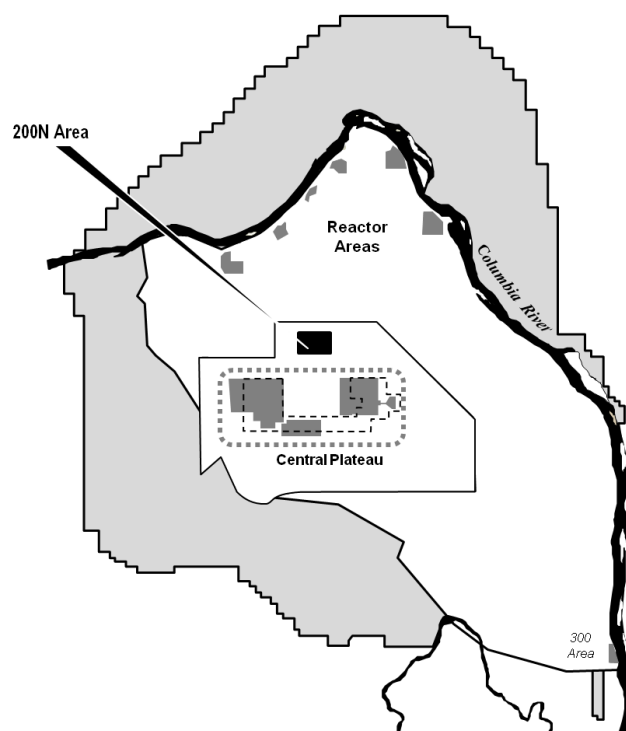
Alternative 2 – Continued Surveillance and Maintenance with Future Decontamination, Deactivation, Decommissioning, and Disposal of the Railcars

Cost: \$4,300,000

Alternative 3 – Near-Term Decontamination, Deactivation, Decommissioning and Disposal of the Railcars

Cost: \$6,400,000

The preferred alternative is Alternative 3: Near-Term Decontamination, Deactivation, Decommissioning, and Disposal of the Railcars. This alternative would ensure any hazardous substances potentially within or on the railcars are placed in a protective and safe condition for the foreseeable future and eliminate the need for ongoing preventive measures and inspections.



Public Comment Period

The Public Comment Period for 212-N, -P and -R Facilities EE/CA Addendum 1: Disposition of Railcars will run from **July 14 – August 13, 2010**



Tri-Party Agreement
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington State Department of Ecology
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Railcars on 212-R Rail Spur Leading into the 212-R Facility

Alternative 3 includes:

Deactivation of railcars prior to decommissioning. This would include surveying internal surfaces, characterizing liquids and debris for designation, draining liquids for treatment (if necessary) and disposal, and removing hazardous materials as appropriate for disposition purposes.

Decontamination and/or application of fixative (a solution) to secure contaminants on the railcars, as needed.

Evaluation of the possibility of recycling non-contaminated or decontaminated portions of the railcars. This would include sending one of the locomotives to an area near the B Reactor National Historic Landmark, if practicable.

Treatment, as needed, to meet waste acceptance criteria and disposal of railcars. For example, eleven of the railcars would require macroencapsulation (fully encasing the railcar to minimize migration of contaminants) due to lead-lined casks.

Physical modifications, as required. This would include such modifications as removing equipment protrusions on the railcars and sealing penetrations or openings for shipment to and acceptance at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility or other EPA-approved facility.

How Can You Become Involved?

The DOE and EPA are holding a public comment period on the 212-N,-P and -R Facilities Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Addendum 1: Disposition of Railcars from July 14 through August 13, 2010. The agencies would like your feedback and will consider all comments before making a decision.

No public meeting is scheduled at this time. To request a public meeting, contact the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008 by July 21st.

Please submit comments by
August 13, 2010 to:

Paula Call
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, A7-75
Richland, WA 99352
Email: railcar@rl.gov

***This EE/CA can be viewed on line at
<http://www.hanford.gov> under Hanford Events Calendar.
To access the document, click on More Event Calendar.
Select any date during the July 14 – August 13, 2010 timeframe.
Click on: Public Comment Period for the 212-N,-P and -R
Facilities EE/CA Addendum 1: Disposition of Railcars***

The document is also available for review at the Public Information Repositories listed below.

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attn: David Maack (206)543-4664
Map: <http://tinyurl.com/m8ebj>

Portland

Portland State University
Bradford Price Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
Attn: Claudia Weston (503)
725-4542
Map: <http://www.pdx.edu/map.html>

Richland

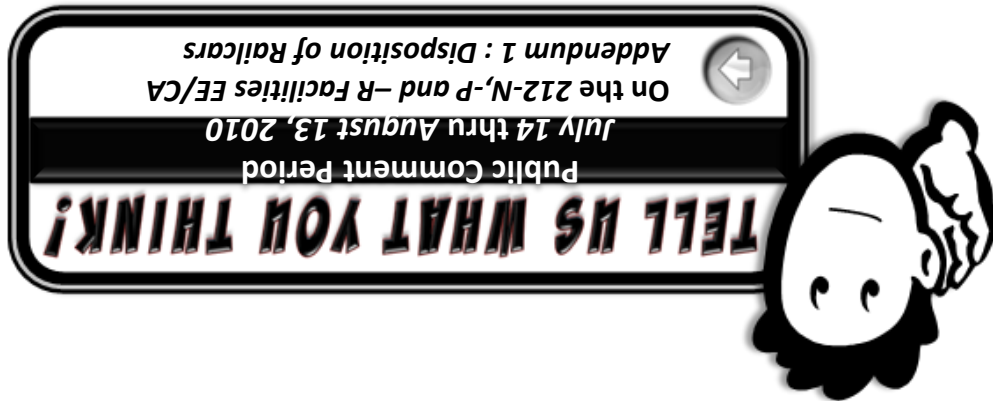
U.S. Department of Energy Public
Reading Room
Washington State University,
Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center,
Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Attn: Janice Parthree
(509)372-7443
Map: <http://tinyurl.com/2axam2>

Spokane

Gonzaga University Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Attn: Linda Pierce (509)323-3834
Map: <http://tinyurl.com/2c6bpm>



Administrative Record and Public Information Repository:
Address: 2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA.
Phone: 509-376-2530
Web site address: <http://www2.hanford.gov/arpir/>



TPA Fact Sheet
U. S. Department of Energy
P.O. 550 MSIN A7-75
Richland, WA, 99352